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September 19, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation -- Universal Service Contribution Methodology, *et al.* WC Docket No. 06-122; GN Docket No. 09-51.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 18, 2012, Martha A. Duggan of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Russell Frisby representing the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the undersigned of the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) met with Vickie Robinson, Claudia Fox, Charles Eberle, Carol Pomponio, Joseph Lilly, and Ernesto Beckford of the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the above-referenced proceedings.

During the meeting NRECA, EEI and UTC explained that smart meters and smart grids should be excluded from assessable services that are subject to universal service fund contributions. Smart meters and smart grids are not interstate telecommunications or interstate telecommunications services, nor would the public interest be served by subjecting smart meters and smart grids to USF contributions. Moreover, it would conflict with the regulatory authority of other agencies and would be administratively infeasible to collect USF from utility customers. Instead, the Commission should exclude smart meters and smart grids in order to promote marketplace innovation and the public interest in overarching national policy objectives regarding energy efficiency, reliability and security.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Marlene H. Dortch
August 19, 2012
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Kilbourne". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brett Kilbourne

cc: Vickie Robinson
Claudia Fox
Charles Eberle
Carol Pomponio
Joseph Lilly
Ernesto Beckford